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Customer Number

Patent
Case No.: 56210US004**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

First Named Inventor: JING, NAIYONG

Application No.: 10/647523

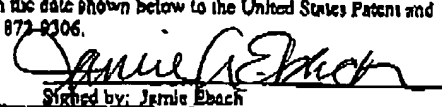
Group Art Unit: 1773

Filed: August 25, 2003

Examiner: ZACHARIA, RAMSEY E

Title: FLUOROPOLYMER BONDING COMPOSITION AND METHOD

DECLARATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.132Mail Stop Amendment
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION (37 C.F.R. § 1.8(a))	
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July 8, 2003 Date	 Signed by: Jamie Ebach

NAIYONG JING declares as follows:

1. I am a citizen of the United States of America and currently residing in Woodbury, Minnesota, U.S.A.
2. I have received a Bachelors degree in chemistry from Nankai University in China, a Masters degree in chemistry from Nankai University, a Ph.D. degree in chemistry from the University of Maryland, and postdoctoral training in chemistry at Dartmouth College.
3. I have been working in the field of polymer research for 3M for 11 years, including over 3 years as senior research chemist for (1994-1997), 3 years as research specialist (1997-2000), 1 year as advanced research specialist for (2000-2001), and 4 years as senior research specialist (2001-present).
4. I am an inventor in the above-referenced patent application. The invention defined by claim 18 of this application is a treated fluoropolymer substrate suitable for bonding

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directly to a polymeric substrate comprising a surface exposed to a combination of a light-absorbing compound and an electron donor and actinic radiation wherein the fluoropolymer substrate surface is substantially free of fluorosurfactant.

5. In accordance with the invention, the fluoropolymer substrate is prepared so that the surface of the substrate is substantially free of fluorosurfactant.

6. I have reviewed the above-referenced patent application and note that it is completely lacking any description of the use of a fluorosurfactant on the surface of the fluoropolymer. This is despite the fact that the application describes specific examples of the invention in detail. In each of these examples, a fluorosurfactant is not employed.

7. For instance, Example 1 describes the preparation of polymer films (i.e., substrates), the preparation of two bonding compositions, and the flood-coating of the film with the bonding composition. In this example, it is further noted that "Samples were prepared by contacting a fluoropolymer film surface with the bonding composition-coated substrate surface to form a laminate precursor." It is finally noted that the samples were then irradiated. The description of Example 1 lacks any mention of the use of a fluorosurfactant. The remaining examples are likewise devoid of any mention of the use of a fluorosurfactant.

8. One of ordinary skill in the art, reading the examples, would expect the applicants to have mentioned the utilization of a fluorosurfactant if the applicants had in fact provided a fluorosurfactant at the surface of the fluoropolymer.

9. Furthermore, at page 6 of the specification, it is indicated that the "bonding composition may include other additives, for example, a vinylsilane, such as an alkoxyvinylsilane, polyhydroxy aromatic compounds, or a thermosetting resin such as an epoxy resin, a urethane resin, a urea resin, or an acrylate resin." Fluorosurfactants are missing from the list of other possible additives.

10. One of ordinary skill in the art, reading the entire specification, would have expected the applicants to have mentioned the utilization of a fluorosurfactant if the applicants had contemplated the use of a fluorosurfactant at the surface of the fluoropolymer.

11. Failing to see any mention of the use of any fluorosurfactant in the specification, including in any of the examples, one of ordinary skill in the art would appreciate that the

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applicants had possession of the concept of a fluoropolymer surface as otherwise explicitly defined, substantially free of fluorosurfactant.

12. Thus, the originally filed application conveys to one of ordinary skill in the art that the applicants had possession of the subject matter now defined by claim 18.

13. I further declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true, and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the above-referenced application or any patent issuing thereon.

Date: 7-8-2005

Naiyong Jing
NAIYONG JING